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Attribution Essay Level 2

English A2

Studies show that people with unstable attributions seem to be more successful than others. To have unstable attributions means that the things that helped you reach that goal can change. To have stable attributions means that things that helped you reach that goal will stay the same forever or a very long time. Unstable and stable attributions can apply when things go badly or when things go really well. For example one stable attribution that applies when things go badly is when you fail a test and you say you failed it because you’re bad at English. It can also be positive if you say you aced your test because you’re good at English. Both examples are because of a stable attribution but they are both different because one is positive and one is negative.

Unstable attributions are usually made by good, hardworking students. A student may blame a stable attribution by saying “I did horrible on the test because I’m stupid when it comes to ELA.” A better student may blame an unstable attribution by saying “I did horrible on my test because I didn’t really get it, but I will try harder next time!” These are both very different because one is said with hope and another is said with a quitter’s attitude. Unstable attributions demonstrate good characteristics/personality traits such as: perseverance, hardworking, good attitude and hopefulness. There is a big difference between students who blame stable attributions compared to the ones who use unstable attributions.

To me, based on a student’s point of view, unstable attributions help a lot. When I think of a negative stable attribution like “I’m not smart” I feel like it is giving up on you. With unstable attributions, I feel, it keeps your options opened because it could always change. It is like hope/perseverance. Jobs like doctors, firefighters, policemen, cashier etc. require people to have unstable attributions. This is because all of them have to go to different calls all the time and have to work with different people and different situations.

Unstable and stable attributions are important concepts for people to be aware of. These types of attributions help us understand our expectations for the future. If a stable attribution is that you are smart then in the future you will be equally or even more smart. If an unstable attribution is that you didn’t study enough then in the future you will study and probably become smarter. A stable attribution is set for the future but an unstable attribution might change in the future. Also, it is a good thing to know the difference between unstable and stable attributions because using unstable attributions makes people better students/people.